

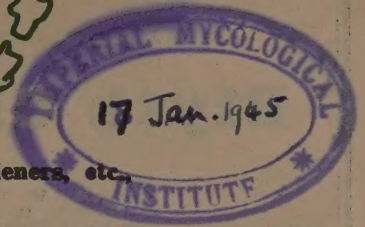
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Vol. 45.

No. 11

NOVEMBER 6th, 1944

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## Special Articles This Month

South Australian News and Notes

Crop Reports

Fruit & Vegetables in Queensland

N.S.W. Apple Industry

Tasmanian News and Notes

Vegetable Culture

Co-operation in South Australia

Fruit and Vegetable Juices

Canned and Dried Fruits

Victorian News and Notes

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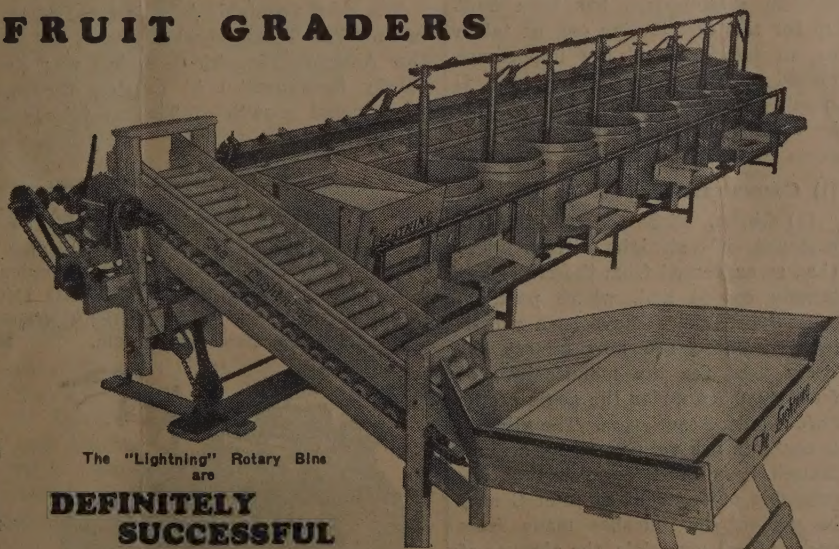
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## Fruit and Vegetable Juices

(Continued from page 16, October issue.)

**Types of Fruit Drinks Available.**

So many different beverages made, or reputed to be made, from fruit, are on the market that it is desirable briefly to clarify the position affecting their actual composition.

Since 1943, the British Ministry of Food, through the Soft Drinks Industry (War Time) Association Ltd., has controlled the composition of all soft drinks with respect to their fruit juice content, acidity, sugar and other sweetening constituents. Apart from the calories derived from the sugar, the nutritional value of these drinks is directly proportional to their fruit juice content and the point should be borne in mind when considering the use of any material for a nutritional or medical purpose. The official definitions include the following:—

(a) Mineral Waters (such as Lemonade, Orangeade, Limeade) contain no fruit juice.

(b) Fruit-cup. Contains a minimum of 5 per cent. of any juice.

(c) Appleade. Contains a minimum of 7½ per cent. Apple juice.

(d) Lemon, Orange, Grapefruit Squash contain a minimum of 25 per cent. of the appropriate fruit juice.

(e) Lime, Black-currant and Elderberry Cordials contain 25, 10 and 10 per cent. respectively of juice.

(f) Fruit Flavoured Cordials. Contain no juice (this includes Black-currant flavour cordial).

(g) "Unfermented Apple Juice" now legally defined for the first time in England, must consist "of the unadulterated juice of fresh Apples without the addition of any preservative, acid, sweetening or colouring matter, essence, or flavouring material, and contain not more than 0.5 per cent. by weight of alcohol." Although this regulation is included in the Emergency Powers Order, it is very much to be hoped that the admirable definition will be included in later legislation.

(h) Pure Fruit Syrups (Black-currant, rose hip, Orange). The vitamin C content is guaranteed at not less than 20 mgs. per fl. oz., or 55 mgs/100 grs. Its sale is restrict-

ed to invalids, young children, certain priority consumers and to hospitals and institutions where qualified doctors or nutritionists are employed.

The rose hip syrup, introduced in 1940 by the Ministry of Health and now sponsored by the Ministry of Supply, has a vitamin C value of 200 mgs/100 mls. The product, as with the black-currant syrups, is sold only through qualified pharmacists. Over 500 tons of hips were processed in 1943.

Concentrated Orange juice syrup is distributed solely by the Ministry of Food and enabled that Ministry to undertake a very much larger distribution of vitamin C syrup than was possible with the product made from home-grown Black-currants. The syrup is standardised at a vitamin C content of 60 mgs/fl. oz.

It is not considered desirable by the Ministry of Food to divulge the extent of the distribution in gallons, but the mere fact that a very large and efficient organisation has been built up for this distribution can be taken as an indication of the importance placed on the needs for vitamin C supplies and the faith which the Ministry has shown in pure fruit products to fulfil these needs.

**(i) Concentrated Juices.**

(1) Citrus. Since the war, the importance of straight citrus juices (i.e., as expressed from the fruit) has largely ceased and, where possible, concentrated juices have been substituted. These are now almost entirely used for the manufacture of fruit squashes under the aegis of the Soft Drinks Association. The vitamin C contents are very variable, and although it is quite possible that appreciable amounts of vitamin C may be present in squashes made from such natural materials, the absence of any official guarantee precludes any reliance being placed on these squashes as sources of vitamin C.

(2) Concentrated Black-currant juices have very recently been made available in which the ascorbic acid (vitamin C) content is as high as 350

mgs/100 mls., or 120 mgs/fl. oz. Such concentrates with or without a slight reduction of acidity, enable much more massive doses of vitamin C to be administered than would be possible with unconcentrated syrups.

(j) Spray Dried Fruit Powders. The concentration of fruit juices finds its natural extension in the almost complete removal of water and the production of a finely divided powder. Such products can be made by a spray drying process from all fruit juices, but those from rose hip extract and Black-currant juice are of chief interest. The former product contains up to 3,000 mgs. ascorbic acid/100 grs., whilst the latter, on account of its much higher solids content, only reaches 800 mgs/100 grs. These materials represent the most concentrated sources of vitamin C from fruits and, as such, have a definite interest to medical science. The full amount of vitamin C needed by an adult per day could be obtained from as much rose hip powder as would comfortably settle down in a small sized coffee spoon and massive doses of much greater amount are correspondingly easier to administer than the large volumes of sweetened syrups.

**Vegetable Juices.**

The chief vegetable juice is the Tomato. The Tomato cocktail habit at the American breakfast table was chiefly instrumental in causing the phenomenal growth of Tomato juice production.

Apart from this vegetable, there are only small quantities of other vegetable juices prepared, one of the chief difficulties being the removal of the pungent flavour of certain sulphur compounds. The health clinics in Germany made much use, before the war, of vegetable juices prepared from green vegetables and roots. Samples sold in this country appeared to have retained no vitamin C, and a similar deficiency was noted in many samples of British origin. In recent years the commercial production of juices in U.S.A. from sauerkraut, Rhubarb, Carrots, Celery, Spinach, Asparagus and Water-cress has been commenced. Such natural materials as Carrots and Spinach contain appreciable quantities of carotene, but this is entirely removed if the pulp is removed by filtration; consequently, such products tend to become merely finely divided purees rather than juices as normally understood.

(To be continued)

**TREATMENT OF FLUKY PASTURES.**

By sprinkling bluestone on pastures a large measure of control over the fluke snail is obtainable. Mix 25 lb. of bluestone with 100 lb. of fine sand to treat one acre. Sprinkle only around swampy or moist places. As the fluke snail has two hatchings annually (December and July) the bluestone should be broadcast not later than December and June of each year.

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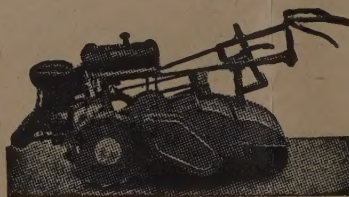
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November 6th, 1944

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## Late Crop Reports

### VICTORIAN CROP CONDITIONS.

Apples Light :: Pears Heavy.

Advice just to hand from the Vic. Dept. of Agric., states that Apple trees have set very light crops after a medium blossoming.

The poor setting is apparently due to absence of bees, combined with some thrips' activity. The value of cross-pollination can be seen, where this has been provided.

The Pear crop is expected to be heavy.

Cherries, good crops expected; Apricots light; Plums medium; Peaches good; Almonds (Mildura district), satisfactory.

Vines: Good crops of Sultanias expected. For Apple moth, arsenate of lead is being sprayed. For vine mite, sulphur dust or sprays of colloidal sulphur should be used.

Citrus trees blossomed heavily, but sandstorms reduced crops on exposed groves.

The area under Tomatoes in the Goulburn Valley is approximately the same as last year, but much less at Bendigo and Quantong.

### Harcourt Crop Prospects.

Pears, all varieties good to heavy.

Apples generally light excepting in isolated orchards that carried a small crop last year. District average of Jonathans probably about 40 per cent., with other varieties very much lighter. Plums light. Cherries light with a few good crops.

The water situation is serious, with growers rationed at about 1/4 of last year's supply.—W. Eagle, 2/11/44.

### Balhannah, S.A.

I regret to say that the prospects are very bad indeed. Owing to very severe frosts so late in the year, Plums and Quinces have been completely wiped out.

Pears: Badly damaged and thinned out.

Apples: Some orchards have been completely wiped out with the frosts. Others, on higher land were not cut sufficiently to make the Apples wither and drop off, although they were marked. These, however, have now been further damaged by hail storms.

Nursery Stock: Severely damaged, many lines being almost wiped out with frost and hail.—H. N. Wicks, 31/10/44.

### Gumeracha, S.A.

Since writing at the beginning of last month, crop prospects have very considerably deteriorated. As noted when the blooming in most orchards

was very good and subsequently it looked as though a good setting had taken place and that a good to heavy crop might be anticipated; on the night of October 17, however, a severe frost materially changed the outlook and in quite a number of cases the crop was entirely destroyed, some areas did not suffer quite so badly and a few report little or no damage. On October 27 some heavy falls of hail severely damaged crops which had escaped frost injury, and the present indications are that, taking the district as a whole there will not be more than a 25 per cent. crop, and the probability is that a good deal of that will be showing more or less of skin blemish which will reduce its market value.—J. B. Randell, 1/11/44.

## Personal

Mr. J. McNeil Martin was recently re-elected President of the Western Australian Fruitgrowers' Association. He has held that position for the past 16 years.

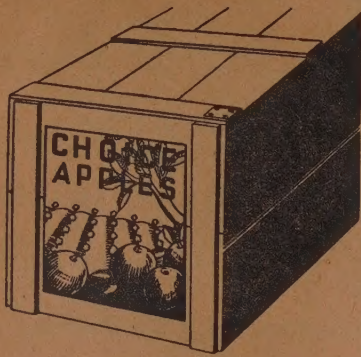
A successful Apple grower, and a man of wide culture, "Jim" Martin is a popular figure in the W.A. fruit industry. He is also well known in the other States, being invariably chosen as a delegate to inter-State conferences. He has a wide knowledge of the industry—local, inter-State and export—and is a logical and convincing speaker. He has done and is continuing to do a fine piece of service for his State and for the Australian fruit industry.

Major P. J. Savage, chairman of the Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing, Brisbane, and also chairman of the other Fruits Sectional Committee, is appreciated for his ability and energy on behalf of Queensland fruitgrowers. He has been chairman of the C.O.D. since 1937. In addition to his own activities as a grower of Bananas, Papaws, Tomatoes, etc., Major Savage pays periodical visits to various parts of the State to examine at first hand how the C.O.D. is functioning.

The Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing, Brisbane, functions both through sectional group committees and through a central executive.

The chairmen of the several sectional group committees are:—Banana, Mr. W. J. Branch; Pineapple, Mr. H. S. Franks; Citrus, Mr. W. T. Duggan; Deciduous, Mr. G. G. Fry; other fruits, Major P. J. Savage.





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"Quick Freezing" Has Many Advantages.

America is now using a new method known as "quick freezing" to make her war-time food production programme even more efficient, and it will not be long before the same method is adopted in Australia. This was pointed out by Mr. E. G. Hall in an article in the "N.S.W. Agric. Gazette."

Quick freezing has the advantage of preserving the fresh colour, flavour, palatability and nutritive value of fruits and vegetables better than canning or any other method of food preservation known at the present time.

The general adoption of the quick freezing method will mean that time and distance will cease to be predominating factors in the distribution of perishable foods; also spoilage, which causes losses up to 20 per cent., will be eliminated. The bulk of the foods can also be reduced by 50 per cent., and thus cut costs of handling and save the housewife from buying waste material and excessive preparation for the table.

This method will also result in a big saving of tinplate, and storage space is only half of that necessary for canned foods.

A quick freezing plant will shortly be in operation in Sydney, and will be freezing vegetables to meet service requirements. Plans are already being developed by commercial interests for the commencement of quick freezing on a large scale as soon as possible. The immediate task is to investigate the suitability of Australian varieties of fruit and vegetables and the effect of variations in climate and soil between Australia and the United States.

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## Crop Reports and District Notes

(See also later reports published elsewhere.)

### FROST DAMAGE TO CROPS IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

Frosts in N.S.W. fruit growing areas in late September caused serious damage to stone fruit crops.

Much of the Apricot crop on the M.I.A. is reported to have been destroyed. A fruit inspector in the district said the damage was "pretty serious." Reports from Young and Orange stated that the Cherry crops in those districts would be greatly reduced. The Almond crop had also suffered, while one estimate of the damage to Nectarines was "90 per cent."

### NEW SOUTH WALES.

Young, 23/10/44.—Since last I wrote to you the position is even worse. We experienced severe hail storms on the 17th Oct., and Plums, Prunes, Cherries, Apples and Pears were severely damaged in many orchards. This has been a record bad season. First drought, frost, and then heavy hail damage. It is impossible to say at present what quantities will be marketed.

The first case of Cherries was picked on the 14th inst, an all-time early record. A number of cases have been marketed since. Unless rain falls soon, much of the later varieties will be on the small size. Trees are suffering severely through lack of moisture in many orchards.

The poultry industry has assumed a position of importance at Young in latter years. There are between 700 and 800 poultry farmers supplying Young Cool Stores.

They are at present handling 45,000 dozen eggs per week, an increase of 10,000 on last year. These are received from producers for candling. 83,000 dozen per week are pulped, an increase of 33 per cent. on last year. Eggs are received from Albury, Narrandera and Wagga Wagga for pulping, also from Junee, Temora and Griffith.—S. A. Thornell.

### TYABB DISTRICT.

Crop Prospects in Tyabb District for 1945.

After the very heavy crop of Apples carried in 1944, and the extremely dry conditions prevailing

through the summer and early autumn, a light crop for 1945 was to be expected. Expectations have been realised. Jonathans, the principal variety grown here, are light, about 40 to 50 per cent. of a full crop. Delicious very light (about 5 per cent.); Stewart's Seedling very light (5 per cent.); Granny Smith, very light (about 10 per cent.); Democrats, heavy, full crop; Gravensteins, heavy; Statesman, very light. Most of the cooking varieties, Five Crown, Reinette, etc., are light; S.T.P. (only a few grown), are heavy. Rome Beauty is flowering well, but has yet to set.

Pears are carrying a heavy crop, the principal varieties—Packhams, Winter Cole, Josephine and B. Bose—are all heavy.

Plums, after a very heavy blooming, have set a patchy crop, some orchards reporting a heavy crop, others very light.

After the heavy rains of May and early June, the winter was very dry, with a lot of frosty weather. During the last six weeks useful rains have fallen, several inches having been recorded. Ploughing has been completed in most orchards, and at time of writing the first spray for control of codling moth is being applied.—W. P. Mair.

### VICTORIA.

Beaconsfield Upper, 27/10/44.—

The crop prospects in Gippsland are not good; Jonathan and Delicious are

very light; Granny Smith, Rome Beauty and Statesman, 40 per cent.; Yates and Rokewood, 70 per cent. Trees are making good growth, and there is no sign of black spot, this being the easiest control season for many years.—T. F. Black.

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Gumeracha, 5/10/44.—The outstanding feature of the season has been the very considerable shortage in the winter rainfall: this is very noticeable in the resultant shortage of growth in the pastures of the district, and although during the last week end the position in this regard has been temporarily relieved by a very welcome fall of rain, varying from about 1 in. to 1½ in. in the different parts of the district, it is insufficient to provide any reserve for the summer months, and it is noticeable wherever an opening down to the subsoil is made that there is a marked absence of moisture; this condition is likely to constitute a problem in the orchards which cannot be irrigated.

Frequent and severe frosts have also had a prejudicial effect, and the early stone fruits (Apricots, Peaches and early varieties of Plums) have had the whole crop destroyed.

Apples and Pears are in most cases showing excellent promise of good crops. At the moment of writing the trees are white with a heavy blooming, and should the conditions continue favourable there should be a good to heavy crop of these fruits throughout the district; there are, of

course, a few patches and odd trees which are standing out, which is usually the case.

At present all trees are looking nice and healthy, and in most cases the usual seasonal spray programme has been carried out. Shortage of manpower still constitutes a major difficulty, and it has been impossible in many orchards to get through with the pruning, while in many cases ploughing and soil tillage are behind but are being pushed on as rapidly as existing conditions permit.

The call for increased Potato production resulted in a larger area being put under this crop in the district than is usual, and the crops last season in most cases were very good; an increased area was planned again for the coming planting season, but this is doubtful of realisation now owing to the absence of any good soaking rain, and at present the indications are that on only those areas that can be irrigated is a payable crop likely to eventuate.

Faith and Hope still constitute a considerable and indispensable part of the mental reserve of primary producers generally, and so the average man of the district goes on doing the best he can despite shortages of rain, manpower, fertilizers and equipment, the while he puts up with a plethora of ill-advised legislation together with regulations like the stars of a summer night for multitude.—J. B. Randell.

### BASKET RANGE, S.A.

Sir,—

In submitting the fruit crop prospects for the current season, count must be taken of the vagaries of the weather, which has already, and may still further influence the final yield. The average rainfall for the district is 40 inches, and irrigation is the exception rather than the rule for fruit production.

At the time of writing, only 26 inches of rain has fallen, and August, usually one of the wettest months, with an average of 5 inches, registered 56 points. September, with 126 points, made a record dry period for early Spring. The position generally improved in October with rains totalling 4 inches.

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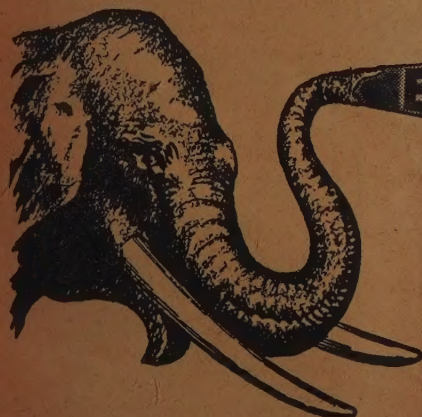
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Extract from "BETTER FRUIT," by Dr. R. L. Webster, Entomologist, State College of Washington, Pullman: **CODLING MOTH COVER SPRAYS**—"Ever since the imposition of an arsenic tolerance in 1936, and even before that time, investigators have been testing other materials which may be used in place of lead arsenate. Following all these intensive and extensive investigations lead arsenate appears to have certain inherent qualities which place this material foremost as an insecticide for codling moth control."

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At present all trees are in wonderful heart, but with no reserve moisture in the sub-soil, much depends on the amount of rain between now and harvest time.

Very severe frosts were incidental to the dry weather, but with the ex-

ception of Lemon trees, no damage was done.

Cherries, stone fruits and Apples are the main crops of the district, and I will deal with them in that order.

Bright, sunny weather heralded the early blooming varieties of Cherries, and early and mid-season sorts are

generally heavy. An unusually hot spell of weather towards the end of September may have interfered with the later bloom, and the late crop is somewhat patchy. So far the season is proving to be very early. Stone fruits—main European and Japanese Plums and Goldmine Nectarines—are

showing the heaviest crop for many years, and I think the combination of frosty nights and sunny days has had a marked influence on the satisfactory "set."

Apples are inclined to be light. Trees which bore heavily last year—and that was general—failed to build up bloom buds, but where blossom appeared, the setting is satisfactory. So far there is a marked absence of either fungus diseases or insect pests, and here again I think the weather played an important part in the satisfactory control. Where advantage was taken of the early dry spell, cultivation is well advanced, but the October rains may bring a prolific crop of summer weeds.

Speaking generally, I think fruit-growers in this district can face the coming harvest with a fair amount of confidence.—W. J. Bishop.

#### WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

In a report despatched from Perth on October 9, the Superintendent of Horticulture, Mr. H. R. Powell, gives the following information regarding horticultural conditions in September:—

Rainfall figures for the month of September have been below the average in all fruit districts. Although the weather during the month has been warm, a number of frosts occurred, and although damage was caused to Potato crops very little damage was caused to fruit trees and vines.

There is a possibility of a heavy crop of Navels and Grapefruit, and good crops of Valencia and Common Oranges and Mandarins.

There are indications that the crop of Apricots, Peaches, Nectarines and Plums will be relatively light.

Satisfactory Apple flowering is expected.

The incidence of pests and diseases during the month has not been severe. Some damage has been caused to stone fruit trees by both Shot Hole and Leaf Curl. Fruit fly infestation has been very light, and Loquat trees in the metropolitan area have only been found to be slightly infested.

In most fruit districts cover crops have been ploughed under. Growers are anxious for further falls of rain, as there is no doubt that if dry conditions similar to last season are experienced during the growing months all fruit crops will be seriously affected.



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# Tasmanian News and Notes

APPLE AND PEAR TREES SHAPING FOR FAIR CROPS — PECULIAR APPLE TREE DISEASE — WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE — QUESTION OF SUBSIDISING EXPORTS AND DEVELOPING THE AUSTRALIAN TRADE.

(By Our Correspondent.)

The weather in the northern fruit-growing districts has been, generally speaking, favourable to orchard work, and allowed both the green tip and pink sprays to be applied on time, thus crops should be clean as far as black spot is concerned. The calyx spray is now in progress in many orchards on Apples. The Pears have been completed. The indications are that the crop will be lighter than last season.

In the southern areas work was held up at times by repeated breaks in the weather through September and early October, and many orchards were late in receiving their pink spray and some missed it completely, and as there was a big carry over of spot from the autumn, uneven results may be expected. A dry spell through late October and November might prevent an outbreak in these orchards, especially if spring cultivation is delayed a little, so as not to liberate buried spores. The last few days have been breezy and warm, which will help, and next week the blossom will be off in most localities, and the next spray will protect the fruit. In most of the orchards that I have seen the trees look healthy, but some varieties show little blossom.

Alfristons average a good showing, C.O.P. up to the average, Jonathan patchy, Cleo good in most places, Granny Smith on the light side, Sturmers patchy, Scarlets average, Democrats mostly heavy. It is too early to say what the setting will be like in Apples.

Pears are far enough advanced to give a fair indication. Packhams seem average, B. Bosc ditto; Comice on the light side; Winter Cole patchy, some heavy requiring thinning and some practically bare. The severe weather late in September no doubt hit the exposed orchards, and frosts probably caught some of the low-lying places at the time Pears were setting. The Apples missed the cold snap.

Cultivation in most orchards is well advanced for this time of the year, as

it is usually not advisable to get a tions. The circumstance most likely to reduce the crop, however, was the summer tith on most types of land till December, as there is usually a fair rainfall in the south about Christmas.

I notice that a number of growers are not pruning quite so heavily as was the practice a few years ago, but are doing more thinning as a regular routine.

The juice and canning factories continued operations late into the season this spring, and should put up a record.

The small fruit plantations are mostly looking well, though some beds of Loganberries are affected by a disease that attacks the vines and stunts their growth.

It is anticipated that vegetable production will be considerably greater than last season. Potatoes are receiving special attention.

The labour position is still difficult, but I think is improving to some extent.

Butter and cheese production are very unsatisfactory, and show no sign of immediate improvement.

The timber position for boxes of all types seems a little worse than ever, and as the mills are under-staffed, and some of the hands not too efficient, the position is not likely to improve for some considerable time. Considerable quantities of the various kinds of processed fruit are being shipped from time to time, and Hobart's wharf accommodation seems insufficient at times to allow quick handling.

Concern is felt by many growers at the prevalence of a disease that is becoming very general among Apple trees. The limbs begin to turn yellow to red at the top, and the trouble extends downward, eventually killing the limb after two or three years; so far no treatment is very promising. Fungus trouble often sets in during

the later stages. It is not confined to any particular type of soil, and is to be found all over Tasmania. I have not noticed it on Pear trees. Perhaps readers would write their experiences with suggested remedial treatment. It may be a deficiency disease, or fungus getting into pruning wounds.

## Future Prospects.

The future of the fruit industry is causing considerable interest in Tasmania, and most growers are averse to returning to pre-war methods of marketing. It will be a difficult problem as it is an all-Australian problem and does not affect Tasmania alone.

There is a general feeling that overseas exports will require to be assisted in some way for a considerable time, as it will be hard to produce fruit under Australian "standards of living," and export to other countries at a profit. Our production costs, plus freights and commissions, will limit exports to a luxury trade.

The Australian public could, and should, be better supplied than in the past if transport facilities were improved and retail prices kept down more in proportion to the price the grower receives. The difference is too great and restricts consumption. Fruit is a luxury at the present retail prices, while the grower is not by any means overpaid for his work. Distribution and buying power appear to be the crucial points. Many suggestions are put forward, but none of them solve the problem.

Memo.—Correspondence would be welcomed from readers regarding the Apple tree disease mentioned in this article, also regarding future industry prospects, together with constructive suggestions.

## TASMANIA.

Winkleigh, 23/10/44.—In this area there are good prospects of a heavy setting of practically all varieties of Pears. It is rather early to forecast the setting of Apples. Judging by the blossoming, however, the following may be about right:—C.O.P. and Granny Smith, light to medium; Jonathan, good; Crofton, patchy; Sturmer, good; Rome Beauty, light.

Should all varieties set well there should be an average crop, but not heavy. Factors which may operate against a good setting are prevailing late frosts and somewhat dry conditions late picking of last crop. Quite a lot of Apples were left to drop, particularly of varieties that were not called up, and with an acute manpower shortage, such were left on the trees. This, together with inadequate supplies of fertilizer, has no doubt weakened the trees. Apple and Pear Acquisition has saved the industry in Tasmania, but there is obviously a serious deterioration in orchards generally.—Neil Campbell.

## LATE VALENCIA ORANGES.

### Tendency to Sport.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BUD SELECTION for the propagation of late Valencia and other varieties of citrus was recently stressed by Mr. E. C. Levitt, fruit instructor, N.S.W. Department of Agriculture.

In recent years bud selection has done much to prevent Valencias from producing "off-type" trees or trees bearing limbs with "off-type" fruits. Unfortunately, there have been a few cases of trees showing "sport" limbs, which indicates a lack of care in selection of parent trees on the part of the nurseryman.

Permanent "chimera," "mutation" or "sport" are names used in describing a twig or limb which consistently produces fruit differing markedly from that carried by the main tree. Even buds taken from the normal portions of the tree will produce trees with a tendency to produce "sport" limbs.

Temporary chimeras, which appear in individual fruits at odd times in the form of creases, ridges, etc., are seasonal in character, and may be ignored when assessing the value of a tree as a source of bud-wood.

When growers find it necessary to raise trees for themselves care must be taken in selecting trees to be used for buds. The trees should be inspected while the crop is still on the tree, and any tree which is not carrying a good crop and showing excessive vigour should be regarded with suspicion.

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### THE APPLE INDUSTRY OF N.S.W.

Production Problems—Present and  
Post-war.

Soil Erosion — "Clean Cultivation  
Fetish" — Root Stocks.

**I** NTERESTING DETAILS of the Apple industry of N.S.W., compiled by Messrs. H. Broadfoot and E. C. Whittaker (N.S.W. Dept. of Agriculture), were given in the last "Fruit World." Writing in the Departmental "Gazette," these investigators dealt with pruning and other aspects (which we hope to publish subsequently in these columns). We now have before us the third of the series, which includes:—

#### Soil Erosion.

This matter warrants serious attention, as the devastating effect is cumulative, and many growers awake to their danger too late. Soil conservation should be provided for by contour planting on slopes, improved cultivation methods, and a suitable cover crop programme.

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#### Clean Cultivation Fetish.

With regard to cultivation methods, it is pleasing to note that the fetish for clean cultivation, entailing continuous pulverisation of the soil, is gradually giving way to saner methods.

Not only has it been shown to be unnecessary, but very often is distinctly harmful.

The idea, generally held at one time, that continual cultivation is necessary to conserve moisture is an exploded theory, and provided that weed growth throughout the orchard is not excessive during the drier and hotter months, there appears little need for multiple ploughing and harrowing.

By continuously pulverising the soil the humus content, on which absorptive capacity depends, is depleted: such soils "wash" very readily.

The maintenance of a moderately rough tilth during the growing season, together with volunteer weed growth, or, better still, suitable cover crops grown at times to avoid competition with the trees for available moisture, will do much to control the run-off of water.

#### Apple Root Stocks.

Stocks play a most important part in the growth and longevity of a tree, but if there is a lack of other factors, particularly soil moisture and plant nutrients, no matter what stock is used, the result will be unsatisfactory.

While the Northern Spy stock has been blamed for the "staginess," the other factors abovenamed have also contributed.

The Northern Spy is an inherently vigorous and deep-rooted tree, but when used as a stock it changes its habits to a large extent owing to a certain amount of incompatibility with many of our varieties.

When used as a rootstock, the Northern Spy shows a tendency towards a shallow and somewhat inhibited root system which results in a dwarfing effect on the tree worked on it, which has a comparatively short life as compared to Spy on its own roots.

On good deep soil, with bountiful rainfall as at Batlow, Spy stocks produce a reasonably large consistently cropping tree in marked contrast to areas of low rainfall and poor soil. However, even at Batlow there are trees doing infinitely better on more vigorous and compatible stocks.

Apple trees with Northern Spy as a rootstock, develop an unbalanced root system in the warmer areas, causing "one-sided" trees.

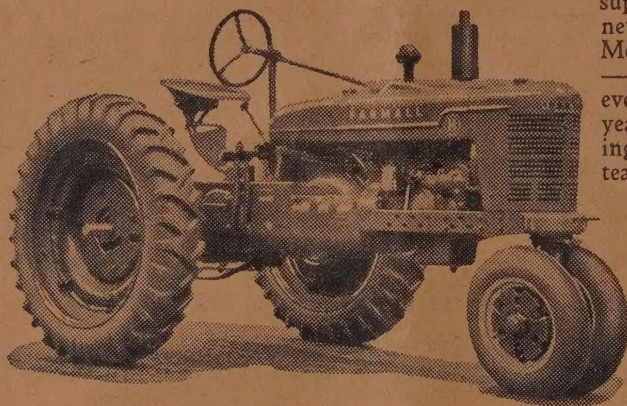
Most of the root development takes place in the soil, which is shaded more or less from the sun's rays during the afternoon. These effects are not noticed with trees on Spy stocks in cooler areas.

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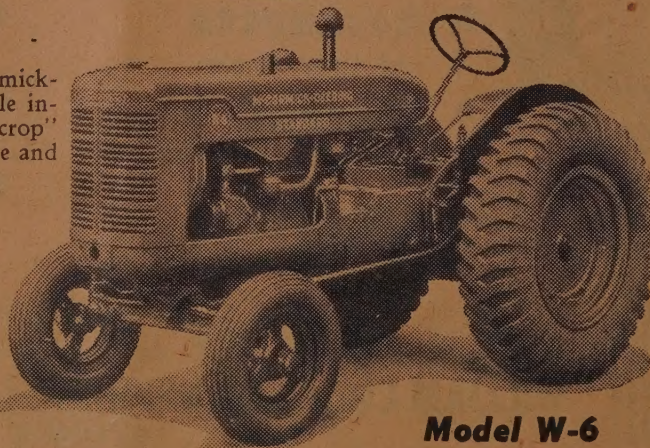


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# Fruit & Vegetables in Queensland

## Report by Royal Commission

**A**MONG THE HIGHLIGHTS of the final report just to hand of the Royal Commission on Fruit and Vegetables in Queensland are:—

(1) The lack of statistics relative to the industry, which has an estimated present turnover of £10,000,000 annually. This lack should be corrected.

(2) The fact that the wholesale merchants and country buyers are not controlled by the Farm Produce Agents Act.

(3) Evasion of price fixing regulations.

(4) Importance of the Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing (C.O.D.), and alterations of the Act to give this organisation security of tenure and other facilities.

(5) Development of advertising of fruit juices; also an approach to post-war problems, including irrigation, soil erosion, etc.

The Commissioners were Hon. R. F. B. Philp, Supreme Court Judge (Chairman); Messrs. H. J. Harvey (President, Trades and Labour Council of Queensland) and G. E. V. Mort, fruit and vegetable grower. The Secretary was Mr. A. F. Trueman, B.Com.

The Commissioners were instructed to enquire into and report upon the production and marketing of all fruits and vegetables in Queensland, including present and probable future demands; exports because of higher prices in other States; prices to growers and commissions to agents with relation to excess profits; gluts; market rigging (if any); improved marketing and distributing methods; effect of ceiling prices; sufficiency or insufficiency of supplies of fruit and vegetables to Queensland consumers.

### Extent of Industry.

The Commissioners state it had been estimated that pre-war £3,000,000 worth of fruit and vegetables were produced (based on wholesale price). In the last two years the value was probably nearer £6,000,000.

Thus, Queensland consumers had paid approximately £10,000,000 in each of the last two war years for fruit and vegetables (including that imported from other States).

The Bureau of Industry figures for 1942-43 indicated that there were in Queensland 8,500 fruitgrowers and 9,000 vegetable growers, but some of the fruit growers were included in the number of vegetable growers, and vice-versa: the lack of statistics re employees, local consumption and inter-State trading was regrettable.

The immediate collection of necessary statistics is recommended, not merely for war-time purposes, but in order that the Government shall have in peace time an accurate picture of the industry.

Although dealing primarily with Queensland, some vigorous comments are made regarding fruit marketing in some of the other States.

A summary of the preliminary report was published in the "Fruit World."

### Prices, Commissions, Etc.

In the final report it is stated that certain Brisbane agents supply country buyers from goods which are sent to them for sale on commission. In these cases the agent should return to the grower the full price charged to the country buyer. In many cases this is not being done—contrary to common law and the Farm Produce Agents Act.

There are also a number of unknown persons acting as buying agents for country retailers, and it is understood that margins of commission charged by them vary greatly.

Evidence was placed before the Commission that made it clear that the law fixing retail margins is not being observed in certain centres.

Most of the licensed agents are also acting as wholesalers and merchants, and there is no State legislation controlling their operations as such.

### Excessive Net Returns.

It would appear that excessive net profits are being made by most people concerned in the trade, but owing to methods of bookkeeping and the fact

that these persons often carry on other types of business it is impossible to present an accurate picture.

### Gluts.

The word "glut" is used to mean a condition in which the supply in a market exceeds the demand.

The first main cause is "over-production," and the Commission was convinced that this was caused primarily because in normal times the choice as to quantity and type of commodity to be produced is left to the individual farmer, thus the swing from under-production to over-production can only be cured by some method of planned production.

The second cause is faulty distribution.

As a general rule the agents, who are forced to congregate into two markets, have no pre-advice as to what quantity or variety of commodity will come on to his floor at any particular time. If there were an authority which could divert commodities from a market which would appear about to be over-supplied this pre-advice would be invaluable. This authority, as well as helping to relieve gluts, would have the effect of equalising prices throughout the State.

In many cases retailers will not handle commodities which are in over-supply because of the small margin of profit derived. In war time, because of the shortage of transport, it frequently happens the commodity in over-supply is not available to the public.

The Commission sees no reason why idle Army trucks should not be used to distribute and sell these commodities, and thus enable the less favoured portion of the community to buy fruit and vegetables at a reasonable price.

Because of high prices and short supplies the grower is often induced to send poorly packed, second-class commodities. In some cases this has also been the case when supplies were normal, and it appeared that inspection and control of these commodities by the Dept. of Agriculture had been practically useless.

Cold Storage seems to be the most effective method of mitigating gluts. Canneries are helpful only in the case

of commodities which can be canned profitably.

### Market Rigging.

There is no evidence of conspiracies or agreements to either keep up or depress the market, and it is practically impossible for any person to establish a "corner" under present conditions.

On the other hand, there was evidence that many agents were not observing the Farm Produce Agents' Act. The Commission suggested that the legislation relating to agents should be tightened up and strictly enforced.

### Ceiling Prices for Fruit and Vegetables.

The Commission came to the conclusion that the grower was receiving prices as high, or higher than, any peace time prices, and the consumer, although he cannot be forced to pay higher than the ceiling price, is still paying a much higher average price than he ever paid in peace time.

### Dept. of Agriculture.

Although much good work has been done for fruit and vegetable production, the Commission did not feel that the Department had a definite policy in relation to matters mentioned.

### The Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing (C.O.D.)

In the opinion of the Commission the C.O.D. is the champion upon which the growers should rely to fight their battles in the strenuous days to come, and that it should now be mustering all its strength by getting all the grower support it can.

Proposed amendments to the Act to strengthen the C.O.D. were quoted.

It is the opinion of the Commission that the C.O.D. should be vigilant to increase output of fruit juices and encourage their consumption.

Large quantities of fruit juice have been produced in Queensland, but good advertising medium has been lost because the can labels do not show this fact. Cannery say the Federal authorities will not permit such advertising, but the Commission thinks that the matter could be adjusted by the Queensland Government.

### Co-ordination of Production and Marketing.

The Commission urged that there should be some authority to thorough-

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ly investigate the industry and stress the necessity for a guarded approach to irrigation and other factors which increase production. War-time consumption can absorb our production at good prices, but the readjustment to peace-time consumption will be painful.

#### Soil Erosion and Fertility Conservation.

All types of erosion are occurring in Queensland, and the Commission suggests that the following English Act of 1923 be adopted in Queensland. The Act stated that a tenant should be compensated for improving his land, or, on the other hand, should allow the landlord to claim compensation for deterioration of his land caused by bad husbandry on the part of the tenant.

#### Improvements.

(a) More could be done to stop pilfering of fruits in transit, (b) to consider the question of cold storage on a broader basis, and (c) the law should be widened to prevent poor quality and badly packed goods from coming on to the market.

This latter could be effected by the use of central packing sheds and common transport to pick up commodities. This may be hampered by the assertion of "individualism" by the farmer who will not take a long-range view of any policy. The C.O.D. should regard this as its greatest enemy, and should realise the importance of the psychological factor in such cases.

#### Wholesale Distribution.

The marketing of heavy vegetables (Potatoes, Pumpkins, etc.) is not controlled, and the only way growers can assist themselves is to set up a Commodity Board.

In the case of fruit and other vegetables it is agreed that there are too many agents, each with a separate overhead, acting in different markets; and recommend that the C.O.D.'s expansion should not be hampered by lack of market space.

#### Consumption from Nutritional Standpoint.

Experts agree that a greater consumption of fruit and vegetables

should be encouraged, and an educational campaign should be instituted in peace time when prices are more reasonable.

#### Market Places.

These leave much room for improvement from the points of view of site, cleanliness, congestion and general arrangement.

#### QUEENSLAND CANNERIES.

#### Successful Year Reported.

#### U.S. Army Takes Whole Output of Pineapple Juice.

In presenting the balance sheet to 30th June, 1944, of Queensland Canned Fruit Pty. Ltd., the managing director, Mr. R. Duthie, said the net profit was £10,350. The finalising of price adjustments brought an additional £3,269 profit for the 1943 season. It was proposed to distribute £11,122 as follows:—1943 financial year, £4,041, and 1944 financial year, £7,081.

Service requirements absorbed the bulk of the production by taking 80 per cent. of canned Pineapples and 100 per cent. of Pineapple juice. The Australian forces were not taking any Pineapple juice, but the demand was very strong from the U.S. Army. A release of Pineapple juice had been requested to encourage a domestic trade.

#### QUEENSLAND.

#### Pineapple Sectional Committee Meets — Experiment Farm Proposed — Research Work Needed on Water Blister, Cool Storage and Cultural Methods — Improving Labour Conditions.

AT A RECENT MEETING of the Pineapple Sectional Group Committee of the C.O.D., Mr. H. S. Franks presiding, the Pineapple Manager, Mr. W. A. Mawbey, reported there had been a delay in delivery of paper mulch. He put forward proposals for research work to minimise water blister, for experimental work with Pineapple cool storage, for the establishment of a plant research station and the employment of a field officer to improve packing standards.

On the motion of Messrs. J. A. McKee and A. Clayton, a resolution was carried favouring the resumption of research in Pineapple culture and marketing to stimulate consumption. In Australia and N.Z.; research to include elimination of water blister (precooling, chemical treatment, etc.), improvement of keeping qualities, packing, transport and cool storage.

The co-operation of the Dept. of Agriculture was requested for an investigation into cultural problems—maintenance of productivity of present Pineapple lands, also plant selection, fertilizer trials, field work to combat blackheart and other disorders.

Further resolutions were carried proposing immediate steps for establishing a well equipped experiment farm . . . the committee agreeing to provide capital cost up to £3,000, providing the Agricultural Dept. would undertake the supervision and research work.

Regarding the appointment of a field officer, it was decided to request that the services of Mr. D. Kirk be retained by the management of the C.O.D., and be made available to the Pineapple Committee when required.

#### Improved Labour Conditions.

Mr. R. E. Elliott moved, and J. R. Stocks seconded, that the C.O.D. confer with a view to securing a fixed suitable basic wage for the fruit and vegetable industries.

Those favouring the resolution contended that the low wage levels prior to the war were to a large extent responsible for the disastrous overproduction, encouraging the planting of large areas with cheap labour. Men returning from the Services were entitled to better conditions than those which prevailed previously.

The opposite view was that present conditions would not continue, and that the industry might labour under an undue burden when things returned to normal.

The resolution was carried.

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# S.A. News and Notes

## SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FRUIT-GROWERS' AND MARKET GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION.

The report of the October meeting of the above Association had not been received when this issue went to press. The reports of the October and November meetings will appear in the next edition of this publication.

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

#### Review of 1943-44 Season.

There was a record crop of Apricots in S. Australia last season, according to a recent review by Mr. A. G. Strickland, M.Ag.Sc., Chief Horticulturist, S.Aust. Dept. of Agric. The 1943-44 crop of Apples was 894,838 bushels, as compared with 789,299 bushels in 1942-43. The Pear crop was slightly below normal, being 240,804 bushels, comprising 146,190 bushels, others 94,614 bushels.

Last season Plum and Prune crops were above average: there was a normal crop of Peaches and Almonds.

Very heavy crops of dried vine fruits were harvested. The Sultana pack was a record one.

The vintage was a good one. Present estimates were for a vintage of slightly over 14 million gallons, compared with an actual vintage of 15,815,986 gallons in 1942-43.

#### Frost Damage Citrus.

Early indications were for a citrus crop 20 p.c. better than in 1943. The approximate 1943 crop was 770,000 bushels, and at the opening of the

Navel season in April of this year 890,000 bushels appeared to be in sight. Severe frosts in June caused serious damage to all kinds of citrus. The damage ranged from complete destruction of fruit to gradual drying of the pulp of fruit which appeared superficially sound. It was certain that the heavy crop of citrus originally in sight would be very markedly reduced.

### GROWING POTATOES AND GARDEN PEAS.

By F. E. Meissner (Meadows, S.A.).

Mixed farming has more or less become a national need to-day. The serious food position of the world demands that we obtain as much as possible from the soil without seriously depleting the fertility, and it has become necessary to practice rotational crops and use all waste material to the very best advantage.

When referring to waste I mean paddocks where stock has been hand fed and which have become thick with animal droppings. A crop of Potatoes could be grown with a limited quantity of superphosphate. The land should be ploughed early to allow the manure to rot, thereby making it more readily available for plant food. Good seed should be obtained from a healthy crop, preferably from a crop that has been recommended by the Department of Agriculture, as a few diseased Potatoes could easily reduce the crop by 30 per cent.

My experience has been that a seed Potato weighing 3 oz. to 4 oz. is a

very easy size to handle. A large Potato carrying more than 4 or 5 shoots has a tendency to throw weak shoots at the butt ends and therefore produce weak plants, and a poor germination. While anything does when conditions are favourable, one needs the best to make a success under unfavourable weather conditions.

After a crop of Potatoes has been taken off, a crop of Peas could follow. I prefer the Greenfeast garden Pea, as there is always a ready market for that vegetable. If the crop is to be dry grown the Peas should not be planted later than the middle of October, as they would mature before the weather becomes too dry and hot and should just about miss the crops grown in early districts.

If water is available for irrigation, cropping can be continued right into January. It takes 2 to 3 months from time of sowing until time of picking. An average crop should yield about 150 bushels to the acre, although under very favourable conditions much heavier crops have been harvested.

The best time for irrigation is when the plant is bursting into flower. They do not require an excessive amount of water. Particularly in hot weather, care should be taken not to over-water, as humid conditions caused by water have a tendency to rot the small roots of the plants and so spoil the crop. Care should be taken not to plant too thickly; 1½ bushels per

acre sown in twin rows 6 in. apart, with a space of .2 ft. between the rows, will allow room for cultivating and picking. A thickly-sown crop will not only produce less pods but pods much inferior in quality. When it comes to marketing, prime quality counts; in fact, the marketing plays a very important part in the monetary return. Pods should be picked when fairly well filled, but they must not be too mature, as pods with a rough skin spoil the look and the sample and could easily reduce the price by 2/- to 4/- a bushel. Always make sure to cool the day's picking before sending to market, as Peas bagged when hot will sweat and lose much weight and their attractive appearance.

A crop of Peas has one big advantage over any other crop; generally the clover makes prolific growth, and some amazing cuts of ensilage have been cut the following year. A paddock so treated generally has a 30 per cent. increased pasture production thereby again assisting the Food Front.

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## VALUE OF HORTICULTURAL INDUSTRIES.

### Importance to South Australia.

**I**NTERESTING OBSERVATIONS on the future of horticulture and its value to South Australia were recently made by the Chief Horticulturist, Mr. A. G. Strickland, M.AgSc., recently.

He pointed out that horticultural industries maintained approx. 17 per cent. of the rural population during the years 1940-1941, and have contributed approx. 20 per cent. of the gross valuation of all crops.

The war had brought an increase in the acreage used for the growing of vegetables, but nurseries had

shrunk to almost two-thirds their pre-war size. Nevertheless, he said, that one thing we can be sure of is that competition in overseas export markets will be more intense than before the war. Horticultural industries dependent on overseas export must therefore attain higher efficiency in production and presentation of their produce. It may even be necessary to consider opening up certain areas hitherto considered "marginal" and make a more general provision of facilities, or, alternatively, to abandon uneconomic areas.

There is a further necessity of more adequately organising the supply of fresh fruit and vegetables to country towns. Improved rail services, refrigerated vans, road transport for cer-

tain areas, better packing and better equipped country shops will be needed to achieve desirable efficiency in country distribution. With adequate movement of quality produce to coun-

try centres both growers and merchants would profit, and it is in their interests to combine and plan for the future.

Mr. Strickland went on to point out the advantages of planning and organising the industry, and stressed the importance of starting this immediately.

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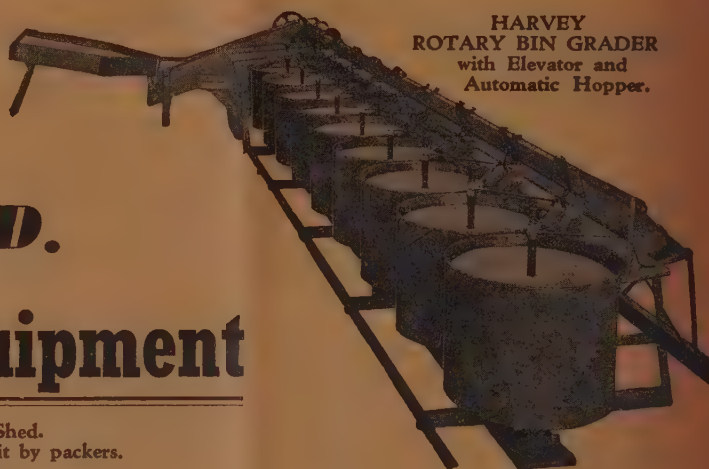
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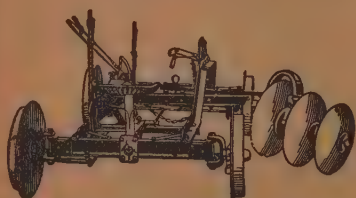
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### SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FRUIT MARKETING ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the S.A.F.M.A. was held at "Claridge Theatre," Adelaide, on 27th October. There were present:—Messrs. J. B. Randell (Chairman), M. G. Basey, A. O. Petersen, R. G. Hannaford, R. O. Knappstein, A. R. Willsmore, P. R. B. Searcy, G. S. Queale, A. G. Strickland, R. H. A. Lewis and E. W. Mills (Sec.).

A vote of thanks was conveyed to Mr. F. F. Redden for his address dealing with what he had accomplished during the season in regard to disposing of fruit in country districts.

#### Marketing Scheme.

On the motion of Mr. F. F. Redden, seconded by Mr. M. G. Basey, it was resolved to advise the Federal Minister of Commerce that the industry had greatly benefited from the marketing methods adopted in this State, and to express the hope that the present system will be allowed to continue.

A vote of thanks to the Premier (Hon. T. Playford) for his services during the year was placed on record.

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The sixteenth Annual General Meeting of members of the S.A.F.M.A. was held at Adelaide on 27th Oct., Mr. J. B. Randell presiding.

The President welcomed the Minister of Agriculture (Hon. G. F. Jenkins), who had consented to open the meeting, and also Professor J. A. Prescott, Director, Waite Agricultural Research Institute, who would give an address.

The Minister of Agriculture expressed appreciation of the work done by the Association in improving the fruit pack in the State, and he hoped that these efforts would be continued as there was a great deal of work to be done to still further raise the standard to enable Australian fruit to meet competition. The Government would always be willing to assist where possible.

#### Executive Committee Report.

The President presented the report of the Executive Committee for the past year. Only five meetings had been held, and it had been decided to hold quarterly meetings in future, instead of monthly until normal conditions return. There was every reason to think that it would not be very long before we enjoyed the blessing of peace, and there had been a great alteration in the position of the Allied Forces as the result of operations during the last twelve months. He formally moved the adoption of the report and statement of accounts. This was seconded by Mr. M. G. Basey and carried.

#### Election of Patron.

Hon. T. Playford was unanimously re-elected as Patron of the Association.

#### President.

The retiring President, Mr. J. B. Randell, was unanimously re-elected.

#### Committees.

The following were re-elected:—  
Growers (6 voting members)—Messrs. A. Brealey, M. G. Basey, S. M. James, R. O. Knappstein, A. O. Petersen, H. N. Wicks.

Auxiliary Committee Growers—Messrs. D. A. Cramond, R. G. Hannaford, R. H. A. Lewis, W. W. Miller,

T. Playford, R. B. Pritchard, F. F. Redden, A. G. Strickland, M. J. Vickers, C. L. Winsor.

Shippers (4 voting members)—Messrs. L. J. Bishop, D. W. Hannaford, P. R. B. Searcy, A. R. Willsmore.

Auxiliary Committee Shippers—Messrs G. S. Queale, L. G. Heading.

#### Growers' Sub-Committee.

All members of the voting and auxiliary committees are members of the Growers' Sub-Committee.

#### Soil Surveys.

Professor Prescott gave an instructive address on "Soil Surveys," and explained the importance of the work that was being done, and the vast amount that still remained to be done; the value of the information obtained well repaid the cost of carrying out the work.

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# DRIED FRUIT NOTES

## DRIED FRUITS BOARD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

### Fifteenth Annual Report.

Figures were submitted which showed a very slight decrease on the previous season's production. The grade standards reached in all varieties were highly satisfactory, which denoted a progressive improvement in the efficiency of packing and processing methods.

The total production of the Commonwealth for the season 1943 was 90,878 tons of dried fruits and 4,734 tons of dried tree fruits.

### Packing and Processing.

The number of registered packing houses has decreased from 40 (1942)

to 37 (1943). In conformity with the common policy of the Boards of the producing States to encourage centralised packing, an appreciable number of redundant packing houses have ceased to operate since the year 1929.

In the main, the packing of dried vine fruits is carried out in the areas of production.

### Quotas and Marketing.

Of the total Commonwealth pack of 90,878 tons of dried vine fruits the allocation to Australia was 25,707 tons (including the Services). Sales within the Commonwealth are regulated by fixed quotas. Opening quotas are declared by the Boards of the producing States, and their position is reviewed from time to time as the

marketing position becomes clarified; quotas are therefore subject to increase as the year increases.

The distribution for civilian requirements within the quotas fixed by the State Boards was regulated in 1943 by the food control authorities, in collaboration with the A.D.F.A. and representatives of the State Boards. The plan was designed to spread the year's deliveries to the trade. It prevented accumulation of stocks by retailers and wholesalers in the early part of the year, and thus ensured to the consumer regular supplies throughout the year.

The Commonwealth Government again in 1943 issued an order under the National Security Regulations requiring for the Services the entire crop of dried tree fruits. Certain tonages not required for Service requirements were subsequently released for the needs of civilians residing

in remote areas, and for infants and invalids. A further small quantity, suitable only for manufacturing, was released for this purpose.

### Export Position.

The marketing exportable surplus of dried vine fruits, which equalled 71.7 per cent. in the year 1943, is in the hands of the Commonwealth Dried Fruits Control Board.

### Investigation Work.

It was reported that there were no complaints laid during the year for infringement of the Dried Fruits Act.

The general investigation work is now carried out by one officer, who visits the more populous areas in the State at least once a year.

### Publicity.

Activities are centred in a special committee. The aims of the committee are to stimulate the demand on the Commonwealth market, as it is to Australian sales that the grower looks for his margins of profit.

### Personnel of the Board.

The Government representatives on the Board are the Chairman (Mr. G. A. W. Pope) and Mr. F. M. McMillan (Deputy Chairman). Messrs. C. W. Till, of Barmera, and J. R. Jemison, of Ramco, represent the producers in the irrigated areas, and Mr. C. E. Russell is the producers' representative for the non-irrigated areas.

### STH. AUST. DRIED FRUITS BOARD.

At the meeting of the South Australian Dried Fruits Board in October the report of the Grading Supervisor in the Renmark Area (Inspector P. J. Leighton) for the 1944 season was tabled, together with analyses of the certificates issued, the cost of the Door Classification plan

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and the allocation of the cost in respect to each packing house. It was felt that the arrangement was generally satisfactory, in as much as it reserved to the growers concerned a full measure of protection.

In regard to the cost of inspection, further correspondence between the Board and the Chairman Victorian Board (Mr. Parker J. Moloney) was considered, and it was agreed to refer the matter back to the Consultative Committee. A memorandum of the Secretary (Mr. W. N. Twiss) on his enquiries into the functions of the different authorities which had been set up in connection with the control and utilisation of Murray waters was noted, and it was agreed to distribute copies among the members of the Board.

The activities of the Investigation Officer (Inspector J. E. Noblet) were contained in a series of reports on his visits to Mount Gambier, Northern Towns and the River areas. The reports disclosed instances of irregular trading, and the Secretary reported on his conferences with the Crown Solicitor in respect to these.

The report of the Technical Officer of the Department of Commerce and Agriculture (Mr. H. R. Tinney) on the sanitary and hygienic conditions in Sth. Aust. packing houses proved of interest, and the Secretary was directed to communicate with the managers of the packing houses concerned.

The Chairman (Mr. G. A. W. Pope) referred with regret to the passing of Mr. Rupert Haynes, a prominent figure in the industry, and one who had many times collaborated with the Board. Mr. Pope's action in conveying to the family of the late Mr. Haynes the sympathy of the members was endorsed.

#### VICTORIAN DRIED FRUITS BOARD.

A meeting of the Victorian Dried Fruits Board was held at Melbourne on the 21st September. The Chairman (Mr. Parker J. Moloney) presided.

#### Dried Pears in Tasmania.

Reference was made to the possibility of large-scale post-war production of dried tree fruits in dehydrators. Experiments had already been carried out by the C.S.I.R. at Homebush, N.S.W. The Chairman, mentioned that the Consultative Committee had been supplied with copies of the views of Mr. Barry Wood (dried tree fruits representative on the N.S.W. Dried Fruits Board).

It was resolved that the Secretary of the Consultative Committee should communicate with the A.D.F.A. conveying the terms of the letter of the N.S.W. Board and of Mr. Wood's notes, and suggesting that the A.D.F.A. communicate with the C.S.I.R., pointing out:—

- The relation of the costs of any experimental work to the marketable value of the product, and
- The general effect on the industry of increasing production until the possibility of new markets is explored.

Mr. Barry Wood pointed out that the proposed C.S.I.R. method would result in a very expensive article. Reference was made to the question of control of the industry in Tasmania should dried Pear production be established in that State.

#### Low-Grade Dried Fruits to Civilians.

A letter was received which asked the opinion of the Victorian Board

concerning the sale of low-grade dried tree fruits to civilians. It was agreed that, if the fruit were of a sufficiently good quality to entitle it to be given a grade, there should be no objection to its sale on the market for civilian consumption.

#### Inadequate Accommodation at Packing Houses.

A report was received from the Department of Commerce, stating that only three out of sixteen sheds visited were suitably provided with the minimum of reasonable requirements. It was decided to request the Commerce Department to take whatever action was deemed necessary.

#### Revised Quotas.

It was agreed that the following quotas be recommended:—Currants, 25 per cent.; Sultanas, 27½ per cent.; Lexias, 35 per cent., and dried Ohanez Grapes, 35 per cent.

#### Commonwealth Sales of Dried Currants and Sultanas.

Commonwealth allocations of dried vine fruits (including Services) had now reached a total of 34,500 tons.

The publicity committee had advertised throughout the capital cities that supplies of these fruits were available. As a result the demand for the War-time Cookery Book had been so great that the committee had found it necessary to order an additional 100,000 copies.

#### Atlantic Charter and Mutual Aid Agreement.

Following on representations made to the Commonwealth Government, the Prime Minister forwarded an extract from a speech made by Mr. Churchill in the House of Commons, which made it clear that the United Kingdom, in subscribing to the Atlantic Charter and Mutual Aid Agreement, retained freedom of action regarding Imperial Preferences.

#### WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Mt. Barker. Visitors to the well-attended meeting of the Mt. Barker Fruitgrowers' Association, at the end of September, included Messrs. J. B. Mills (Chairman, Apple and Pear Marketing Board), H. W. Soothill (Deputy Chairman) and R. M. Carter (W.A. State Superintendent). Mr. J. M. Martin presided.

Delegates to the annual conference of the W.A. Fruitgrowers' Associa-

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tion, held at Perth the previous week, gave their reports and were thanked.

Mr. Mills gave an interesting review of Apple and Pear marketing in Australia. He said that pre-war statistics of production and consumption were seriously unreliable. Mr. Soothill's address also dealt comprehensively with many matters affecting the industry's present situation and future policy.

Mr. Carter spoke on matters of local interest, and said that the statistics now being compiled would be of immense value to the industry after the war.

The speakers were accorded a hearty vote of thanks.

To represent Mt. Barker on the Executive of the W.A. Fruitgrowers' Association the following were appointed:—Messrs. T. G. Sounness, O. A. Sounness, R. S. Wallace and A. M. Wright (proxy).

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## Vegetable Grower

### TOMATO PLANTING.

#### Hardening Seedlings — Pest Control.

THE NECESSITY for thoroughly hardening Tomato seedlings before planting out was stressed by Mr. R. S. Harper, Officer in Charge, Horticultural Research Station, Tatura, Vic. Overcrowded seed beds should be thinned; beds should be watered less often and with more care; from 3 to 6 days before the plants are transferred to the field the beds should be left open continuously unless frost threatens, and only enough water applied to prevent wilting.

Vegetable weevil and cutworms often take toll of plants soon after they are moved to the field. Some protection is given to plants if they are thoroughly sprayed with lead arsenate a day or so before they are lifted from the seed bed. Four (4) ounces of lead arsenate paste or 2 oz. of powder to every 4 gallons of water are required. Spraying should be heavy, the aim being to cover the whole of the plant, including the stem, with a coating of lead arsenate. When done at this stage it is only a matter of minutes to do some hundreds of plants, whereas if done in the field the operation of spraying requires considerably more time.

### TOMATO PESTS.

#### Control of Vegetable Weevil and Cutworms.

It has been noticed during the past 2-3 weeks that many Tomato growers are losing plants due to damage by the brown vegetable weevil.

This pest often cuts off plants at ground level in a similar manner to cutworms, but the more typical injury is the eating of leaves and stems of the young plants. The adult weevils and the young grubs are rarely seen on the plants, because of their habit of sheltering in the soil around the base of the plant by day, and emerging to feed at night. The feeding habit of this pest, and the injury caused to the Tomato plant, is very similar to that of the common cutworm, and the methods of control suggested are effective for both pests.

Tomato plants should be dusted with a 50 per cent. lead arsenate dust, or alternatively, sprayed with a mixture consisting of 1 lb. of lead arsenate powder (or 2 lbs. of lead arsenate paste) to 16 gallons of water. In applying either spray or the dust, the grower should aim to cover the stem of the plant as well as the leaves. Many growers find that dusting the plant with a mixture of lead arsenate powder and pollard (1 part by weight of lead arsenate to 9 parts by weight of pollard) is quite effective, and, if such is the case, there is no reason to change the method.

The generally accepted method of controlling cutworms is the use of poison baits prepared from the following formula:—

24 lbs. bran, 1 lb. of Paris green (or 1 lb. of arsenite of soda), 1 lb. common salt and 3 gallons of water.

The bran, Paris green, and salt should be mixed thoroughly first, and

the water then added to produce a damp crumbly mash which is distributed along the rows. One hundred pounds of prepared bait containing roughly 45 lbs. of bran is sufficient for one acre.

### MANURING TOMATOES.

To get the best results from limited quantities of manure, the manager of the Tatura (Vic.) Horticultural Research Station, advises as follows:—

1. Time of Application. Growers fortunate enough to secure blood and bone manure should work it into the ground some 5-7 weeks before planting. It is a slow acting manure. Superphosphate and 3 : 1 manure are more readily available, and should be applied just prior to or at planting time. Sulphate of ammonia should not be used now, but retained for side dressing purposes later in the growing season—approximately December or January.

2. Place of Application. The aim should be to concentrate the manure in a zone just beneath the young plant so that it will be available immediately the plant starts to take root. In practice it is often easier to apply the manure in a drill line some 6-8 inches to one side of the row—quite a few growers have manure attachments on their scufflers to do this job.

3. Manner of Application. The way in which the manure is applied will vary according to the grower and the implements he possesses. Broadcasting and harrowing manure in the field prior to hilling up tends to disperse the manure too widely. The method of throwing a handful in each hole as they are hoed for planting is good only if the manure is well mixed with soil. Drilling the fertilizer in the ground near the row or ploughing it under along the line of the row are the most effective methods of application.

### TRANSPLANTING OR "STARTER" SOLUTION FOR TOMATOES.

#### Earlier Maturity and Improved Yields Possible.

By means of a "Starter" solution Tomato plants receive the minimum set-back when transplanted, grow steadily, maturing their fruit earlier and giving a greater over-all yield than plants not so treated.

The recommended solution consists of 6 lbs. superphosphate and 3 lbs. of sulphate of ammonia to 50 gallons of water—half a pint of this solution should be used per plant. There is a distinct possibility that a greater quantity of this solution or a greater concentration of the fertilizers will cause damage to the roots of the young plants, so that these quantities of fertilizer should be strictly adhered to. If it is necessary to use a greater quantity than 1/2 pint per plant, then it is recommended that the strength of the solution be reduced accordingly.

Growers will find that there may be considerable insoluble superphosphate residue in preparing this solution, and it is suggested that the fertilizer be mixed in a separate container and then poured off carefully



and strained into the field container. This insoluble portion should not be thrown away, but distributed in the field or garden.

If this solution is used in the planting machine, it is easier to make stock solutions in advance, and then add the necessary quantity of water to bring the total up to 50 gallons as it is required. When hand planting, a half pint should be ladled into the prepared holes before the plants are distributed, as if poured over the plant the solution is likely to burn the foliage.

#### CABBAGE CROP FAILURE.

Defective Seed Alleged in N.S.W.

**A**T A RECENT CONFERENCE of vegetable growers in N.S.W. strong criticism was levelled at some lease-land Cabbage seed, which it was stated was defective. The Cabbages ran away to seed and were unsuitable for dehydration. Instances of ruinous losses were given, and it was decided to seek compensation from the Federal Government.

At the end of September a deputation from Gosford vegetable growers met the Minister for Commerce and Agriculture (Mr. Scully), stating that the serious crop failure with Cabbages was due to faulty seed. Last season when there had been a similar failure with lease-land seed it had been alleged the trouble was due to frosts and not to faulty seed. This season there had been no frosts in the Gosford district, but the crop had failed again. Compensation was requested.

In the House of Representatives early in October, Mr. F. T. Williams, M.H.R., said that 74 growers had failed to produce more than a 10 per cent. crop, as the Cabbages had gone to seed. The morale of the growers was affected. Some growers were facing ruin.

Mr. Scully promised that an investigation would be made.

#### "WATERY WOUND ROT" OF POTATOES.

"Watery wound rot" of Potatoes is a disease contracted from a parasitic fungus present in the soil and, as the name implies, shows itself as a watery rot of the tuber. The trouble is usually associated with an injury such as would be produced by a fork during digging operations. It is a common disease in Potatoes marketed during the summer months in one or two of our Potato districts, particularly where Potatoes are grown year after year on the same land.

Officers of the Biological Branch of the Victorian Department of Agriculture strongly advise Potato growers who have trouble with this disease to rotate Potatoes with other crops, to adopt strict plant sanitation measures and to avoid as far as possible mechanical injury to the tubers during lifting and handling.

#### POTATO CULTURE.

Red Clover Renovates the Soil.

If the production of Potatoes is to be maintained at a level sufficient to meet war-time demands, it is necessary that fertile soil be used.

The N.S.W. Dept. of Agric. points out that, as growers cannot expect

to obtain new land of suitable fertility for each planting, it is their responsibility to maintain the fertility of the land they already hold. This can be done by sowing the land with red clover, which is an excellent short-term rotation crop and soil renovator for Potato districts. The crop is used for grazing and hay production and the residue is ploughed in after two years.

The restoration of fertility of old potato soils has thus become an essential war-time project, and to

achieve it a drive is being made with the object of sowing 2,000 acres of red clover during 1944 and each succeeding year. This would greatly benefit Potato yields, but growers should aim at eventually sowing one-third of their Potato land to red clover each year.

Potato-growers are urged to consult local agricultural instructors, District War Agricultural Committees or their Machinery Pool as to the supply and sowing of red clover seed.

#### BOOKKEEPING FOR THE FARMER.

In response to numerous requests from farmers during the past few years for information on the subject of farm bookkeeping, the Victorian Department of Agriculture has published a booklet outlining the main principles of bookkeeping as applied to farming transactions. This publication, "Bookkeeping for the Farmer," may be obtained free of charge from the Director, Department of Agriculture, Melbourne, C.2.



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# Market Notes and Prices

## NEW SOUTH WALES.

Sydney (1/11/44).

The State Marketing Bureau reports as follows:—Marketing of Cherries from the Young and Lakesland districts was well under way, as many as 2,500 quarter cases being forward on Tuesday, October 31.

Small consignments of new season's Apricots from coastal orchards were available, the bulk being packed in quarter bushel cases. There was a steady request and the equivalent of 28/- per half bushel was obtained for best lines.

Choice Apples met a good request, the principal trade sizes of Delicious, Granny Smith and some lines of Jonathan and Rome Beauty selling at the ceiling price of 25/- per bushel. Rates for Tasmanian Democrats were advanced, best sizes realising up to 15/-; this rate was also obtained for Western Australian packs. Further supplies of Western Australian Granny Smiths were forward and values ranged from 21/- to 25/-. On the closing market (November 1), the maximum wholesale price of Apples was increased to 27/- per bushel, and the retail price to 10d. per lb.

Few local Pears were obtainable, but further Victorian consignments of Packham's Triumph, Winter Cole, Josephine and Winter Nelis came to hand. Apart from very small and ripe fruit, the ceiling level of 26/- per bushel was paid. The wholesale selling rate was advanced to 28/- per bushel on Wednesday, November 1.

Ruling rates were: — Apples, N.S.W.—Granny Smith 20/- to 27/-, few very small sizes lower; Delicious

27/-, few small sizes lower; Democrat 12/- to 25/-, few higher. Victorian—Jonathan 12/- to 25/-, Rome Beauty 12/- to 23/-, few 25/-, Granny Smith 12/- to 25/-. Tasmanian—Democrat 12/- to 15/-. West Australian—Granny Smith, 21/- to 25/-; Democrat, 12/- to 15/-. Pears: Victorian—Packham's Triumph, Winter Cole, Winter Nelis and Josephine 28/-, ripe and small sizes lower (mainly nominal). Oranges: Valencia—Coastal 8/- to 18/-, specials to 21/-; small from 3/-. Lemons: Coastal 10/- to 14/-, few specials to 16/-. Mandarins: N.S.W. 3/- to 25/-, few higher, per bushel case. Bananas: All sizes, f.a.q., 7d. per lb., medium and inferior lower (weight 80 to 96 lb. per case). Passionfruit 20/- to 38/-, inferior lower. Rock Melons: Queensland, 5/- to 15/- per half case. Apricots 10/- to 14/-. Cherries: Young 8/- to 12/-, inferior lower, extra choice 14/-, few higher; Lakesland 16/-, few higher per quarter case. Strawberries: Local 12/- to 36/-. Mulberries 8/- to 9/- per dozen punnets. Papaws 15/- to 25/-, specials higher. Pineapples 25/-, few very small sizes lower per tropical case (mainly nominal).

Vegetables (City Municipal Markets).

Current quotations were: — Peas 14/- to 23/4, inferior lines lower. Beans 10/- to 20/-, inferior from 2/-. Broad Beans 4/- to 7/- per bushel. Cabbages 2/- to 9/-, early sales 10/-, with a few higher, per dozen. Marrows (Queensland) 6/- to 12/- per dozen. Lettuce 2/6 to 7/-, few higher, per case. Carrots (bagged) 12/- to 25/- per cwt. Parsnips 4/- to 7/- per dozen bunches, to 28/- (nominal)

per cwt. Rhubarb 4/- to 7/-. Spinach 2/- to 4/-, early sales to 6/-. Celery (local) 6/- to 15/-. Asparagus 18/- to 42/-. Mint 3/-. Parsley 6/- to 12/-. Radishes 2/- to 4/-. Beetroot 2/- to 5/- per dozen bunches. Tomatoes (glasshouse) 24/-; (North Coast) 16/- to 20/-, choice to 24/-; inferior lower; (Queensland) 6/- to 20/-, choice to 24/- per half case. Onions (Queensland Brown and White) 23/6. Swedes 8/- to 12/-. Pumpkins 22/6. Sweet Potatoes 16/- per cwt. Cucumbers (Green) 2/6 to 7/- per half case. Potatoes: 1st grade 7/10½ per cwt.

## VICTORIA.

Melbourne, 2/11/44.

### Vegetables.

Asparagus, 3/- to 10/- for 100; Beans, Broad 8/- to 15/- 50 lb., Kidney 6d. to 1/1 lb.; Beetroot, 10d. to 1/- doz., max. 17/- cwt.; Beet, Silver, 3/- to 4/- doz. bunches; Cabbages, 6/- to 12/- doz.; Carrots, 3/- to 4/6 doz. bunches, max. 21/- cwt. without tops, 16/- with tops; Cauliflowers 10/- to 18/- doz., few to 20/-; Celery, 6/- to 8/- doz.; Cucumbers (Q.), 18/- to 25/- case; Garlic, 1/6 to 1/9 lb.; Horseradish, 1/- to 1/3 bundle; Lettuce, 8/- to 16/- case; Mint, 2/- to 3/- doz. bunches; Onions, Green 2/6 to 3/- doz. bunches, Silver 2/- to 3/- doz., 7/- to 7/6 case; Parsley, 2/- to 3/- doz. bunches; Parsnips, 4/6 to 6/6 do. max. 23/- cwt. without tops, 18/- with tops; Peas, 25/- to 36/- 50 lb., few to 40/-; Potatoes, 10/- to 10/6 bag; Pumpkins, 12/- to 36/- doz., 22/6 to 25/- cwt. max.; Radish 2/- to 2/6 doz. bunches; Rhubarb, 3/- to 4/- do.; Spinach, 4/- to 6/- do.; Tomatoes, 18/- to 20/- half case max.; Turnips, 3/- to 5/- doz. bunches; Swedes, 8/- to 14/- bag, 4/-

to 6/- doz. bunches; Vegetable Marrows, 9/- to 15/- doz.

Fruit (Bushel Case, unless stated).

Apples, eating, 14/- to 22/-, few Delicious to 25/- max.; cooking, 12/- to 20/-, few Granny Smith to 22/-. Cherries, 1/3 to 1/9 lb. Oranges, Navel and Commons, 15/6 to 18/6 max.; Valencias, 18/6 to 21/6 max. Lemons, 15/- to 20/- max. Mandarins 22/- to 30/- max. Gooseberries, green, 8/- to 10/- doz. lb. Strawberries, 1/9 to 2/9 punnet. Pears, dessert, Packhams, 25/- to 28/- max.; other varieties, 18/- to 22/-; culinary, 16/- to 22/-. Papaws, 22/- to 30/- double case. Bananas (green), 6½d. to 6½d. lb.; ripe, to 7½d. max. Pineapples, 20/- to 27/6 double case; 5½d. lb. max. Passionfruit, 25/- to 40/- half case.

## APPLES AND PEARS IN COOL STORAGE.

According to figures released by the Government Statist, the quantities of Apples and Pears in cool stores in Victoria between the 30th June and the 30th September have decreased as follows:—

### Apples.

30th June . . . . .	1,345,000
31st July . . . . .	1,184,000
31st August . . . . .	913,000
30th September . . . . .	590,000

### Pears.

30th June . . . . .	182,000
31st July . . . . .	113,000
31st August . . . . .	68,000
30th September . . . . .	43,000

## APPLES — AMERICA'S FAVOURITE FRUIT.

Under the above caption there is published in "Click," the American national picture monthly for September, 1944, an interesting story on Apples, together with information regarding "eight ways to get your Apple a day," coloured pictures of 16 Apple varieties and eight coloured pictures of attractive Apple dishes.

The Apple varieties illustrated are Jonathan, Delicious, Golden Delicious, Rome Beauty, McIntosh, Stayman Winesap, Winesap, Cortland, Ben Davis, York Imperial, Grimes Golden, Yellow Newtown (Albamarle Pippin), Northern Spy, Yellow Transparent, Oldenburg (Duchess) and Wealthy.

These varieties, many of which are familiar in Australia, are said to represent 70 per cent. of the Apples produced commercially in U.S.A.

Illustrated are also: (1) deep Apple pie, (2) baked Apples, (3) spiced Apples, (4) Apple rings and ham steak, (5) Apples on steak, (6) Apple dumplings, (7) Apple sauce, (8) Apple juice and cider.

The article concludes: "You'll find the reputation of these Apples for shoo-ing the doctor away has a concrete basis. They are easily digested, help prevent intestinal ailments, provide energy and add to your total vitamin and mineral intake."

## TRAINING SOLDIER SETTLERS.

TO PROVIDE TRAINING for returned soldiers who desired to go on the land, the Dookie and Longerenong (Vic.) Colleges are being specially equipped. This was stated recently by Hon. N. Martin, Victorian Minister for Agriculture. A list was also being prepared of approved farmers who would employ returned soldier trainees while gaining practical experience.



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## FRUIT AND VEGETABLE INDUSTRIES.

Successful Annual Conference of Commonwealth Chamber — Immediate Needs and Long-range Policy Discussed.

The fourth annual conference of the Commonwealth Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries was held in Sydney on 6th and 7th October.

Representation was as follows:— Queensland: Messrs. Y. F. Jesser, L. A. Martin. N.S.W. Messrs. L. J. Jenkins (Chairman), H. P. Woodward, M.L.A., C. R. Walker, W. Musgrove, I. Silk, P. S. Macdermott (Hon. Sec.). Victoria: Mr. W. MacGowan. South Aust.: Messrs. L. G. Heading, G. S. Queale, L. J. Bishop, V. E. Fromen. West Aust.: Messrs. D. J. Sutcliffe, H. C. Stewart, H. W. Soothill.

The conference was the most successful yet held, and a very long agenda was dealt with. Included in the business discussed were the following:—

**Election of Officers for the Ensuing Year:** President, Mr. L. J. Jenkins (re-elected); Immediate Past President, Mr. Y. F. Jesser (re-elected); Deputy President, Mr. J. Davis, Melbourne; Vice-President, Mr. V. E. Fromen, Adelaide; Honorary Treasurer, Mr. W. Musgrove, Sydney; Honorary Secretary, Mr. P. S. Macdermott, Sydney.

The President submitted the report of the Executive, which covered the activities of the previous twelve months.

**Next Annual Conference:** It was resolved that the next annual conference be held in Adelaide at a date to be fixed.

**Prices Orders:** It was resolved that a request be made to the Prices Commissioner that provision be made in each State for a reasonable margin of profits to merchants and secondary wholesalers on all fruits and vegetables sold at ceiling prices.

The question of improved distribution of Apples and Pears by The Australian Apple and Pear Marketing Board was also dealt with.

Suggestions were put forward for the post-war development of the distribution of fruits and vegetables both in Australia and overseas.

The conference was advised of the co-operation extended to the Federal Government in each State in the disposal of surplus vegetables, and this co-operation will be continued.

Suggestions were called for from each State for a long-range plan for distribution of fruit and vegetables.

The position in regard to the deterioration in the seed position for vegetables was fully discussed, and it was agreed by delegates that some definite action will have to be taken at once to ensure supplies of good quality seeds for next season. The position in South Australia was worse than in some of the other States.

It was resolved to approach the Minister for Commerce and Agriculture, the Hon. W. J. Scully, M.P., and ask that the necessary action be taken to improve trade in fruit and vegetables between Australia and New Zealand, both import and export.

## WAR FACTS IN BRIEF.

Australian commercial egg output in 1943-44 was 88,985,000 dozen—9,000,000 dozen above the previous year's total, and more than 30,000,000 dozen higher than the pre-war average.

## CANADIAN APPLES.

Increased Local Consumption— Limited Exports—Substantial Developments in Processing.

IN THE ANNUAL APPLE CROP summary, 1943-44, received from the Canadian Bureau of Statistics, it is stated that the 1943 commercial crop of Apples was 12,885,000 bushels, approximately equal to that of the previous year. The heaviest crop in recent years was 16,415,000 bushels in 1939. Preliminary figures indicate an aggregate value of 16,346,000 dollars, being 14 per cent. above the previous high of 14,390,000 dollars in 1942. Popular dessert varieties were at ceiling levels throughout the season; culinary sorts did not move as freely, and were often at sub-ceiling levels.

Since the outbreak of war approximately one-third of the Canadian crop has been processed, as compared with a pre-war average of about 14 per cent.

Under war-time conditions Canadian markets have absorbed more Apples than pre-war—7,345,000 bushels in 1943 as compared with the five years' pre-war average of 5,645,000 bushels.

## The Export Trade.

Canada's export trade in fresh Apples has been severely restricted during the war. Nova Scotia, the province most dependent upon U.K. markets, diverted the bulk of Apple production to processors for dehydration, most of which finally went for export.

In 1939 Canada exported 8,463,246, of which 7,453,479 went to U.K. In the following four years the total exports to all places were (in bushels):—1940, 4,020,621; 1941, 1,058,458; 1942, 1,791,887; 1943, 760,385. Of the last-mentioned total 598,184 bushels went to the United States.

## 35 Per Cent. of Crop Processed.

Of the 1934-44 Apple harvest, 4,542,000 bushels, or 35 per cent., were used for processing; considerably over half this quantity was dehydrated, the balance being used for juice, canning, jam, vinegar, pie-fill, etc.

While these figures indicate the quantity of raw whole Apples purchased by processors, it is pointed out that quantities of such products as cider, pomace, etc., were also manufactured from skins and cores.

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## POTATOES AS PIG FOOD.

Potatoes which are wholesome but, for various reasons, unsuitable for human consumption, may form a large part of the diet of pigs, resulting in fast growth and good carcass quality, but as pig feeding is as much a matter of economics as of nutrition, Potatoes should be fed to pigs only when they are available at a price favourably related to the prices of pigs and of other pig foods.

Pig-feeding experiments have demonstrated that four tons of Potatoes when boiled or steamed are equal to one ton of cereal meal, but if the Potatoes are fed raw, six tons are required to replace one ton of cereal meal. These replacement values apply only when the Potatoes are fed in balanced rations. On these values, if Wheat can be delivered to the piggery and crushed, at a total cost of 4/- per bushel, Potatoes are worth approximately £1/10/- per ton at the piggery ready for boiling.

Mr. L. A. Downey, Pig Expert of the Victorian Department of Agriculture, advises that, when it is desired to feed the maximum quantity of Potatoes consistent with good growth, young pigs should be fed their usual diet of cereal meal and either separated milk or meat-meal until they are about 60 lb. live weight, and then,

continuing with the same quantities of those foods, cooked Potatoes should be introduced to the diet and fed in increasing quantities to satisfy the appetites of the pigs as they grow to baconer weights.

For brood sows, approximately half the cereal allowance may be replaced by Potatoes.

Potatoes should be boiled with the least possible quantity of added water, and the pigs should be allowed water to drink separately from their food.

## FRUIT RESEARCH IN NEW ZEALAND.

According to the 1943-44 annual report of the Cawthron Institute, Nelson, New Zealand, research has been made and experiments carried out to overcome the magnesium deficiency in Apples, and tests are being carried out on the vitamin C content of different varieties of Apples.

In addition, interesting tests are being carried out on the codling moth parasite and the effect of dichloroethyl ether on the winter eggs of Apple red mite. Some attention has also been paid to the control of the mealy bug.

## SPECIAL NOTICE TO FRUITGROWERS

In response to numerous requests from growers for information as to who are members of the  
**WHOLESALE FRUIT MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA,**

the following list is given. All are members of the above Association, and are registered firms carrying on business in the **WHOLESALE FRUIT MARKET, MELBOURNE.** (All Members under Fidelity Bond)

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**WING YOUNG & CO.** (28).  
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# CO-OPERATION

## Success in South Australia

**P**RESENT AND POST-WAR problems were dealt with at a conference at Mt. Gambier, S.A., between representatives of the S.E. Potato Growers' Association and the S. Aust. Fruitgrowers and Market Gardeners' Association recently.

In the S.E. districts of S. Australia (as in other parts of the Commonwealth) the war has been responsible for a vast increase in Potato growing. Guaranteed prices under contract have served as a stimulus to growers; many who previously devoted their energies to other forms of production were now growing "Spuds." Hence the formation of the South-Eastern Potato Growers' Association.

There was a good attendance of growers at the conference. The net result was a useful interchange of

views from which it is hoped something concrete will result.

Mr. C. H. Kentish, President, S.E. Potato Growers' Association, who presided, extended a cordial welcome to the visitors: Messrs. R. A. Crumond (President), and A. Stuart (Secretary), S.A. Fruitgrowers and Market Gardeners' Association; C. J. Pitt, S.A. representative Federal Potato Advisory Board; W. J. Bishop, Chairman Fruitgrowers and Market Gardeners' Society Ltd., and L. B. Pfeiffer, Chairman Onkaparinga Potato Growers' Association.

Mr. Stuart said producers must stand unitedly together to face the problems of the future. The S.A. Fruitgrowers and Market Gardeners' Association had been operating for 46 years, from a mere handful the membership had grown to over 1,100.

Financially, they were very strong. Practically all types of rural industry were grouped under their banner: each had its own section and was represented on the central committee. Unitedly they could speak with authority on behalf of producers, being recognised by the State and Federal Governments. At the moment the matter of rehabilitating properties where manures were short and taxation high, was being successfully negotiated. (Applause.) He urged the S.E. Potato Growers' Association to amalgamate with the central organisation.

Mr. Pitt, speaking as a member of the Potato Advisory Board, spoke of the huge increase in production fostered by the war. Overseas markets, if properly organised, should be able to absorb the surplus. Effective organization of producers was the first necessity. He supported amalgamation with the Fruitgrowers and Market Gardeners' Association: their Secretary, Mr. Stuart, was also Potato controller, and he had proved his organising and administrative ability.

Mr. Bishop gave interesting details regarding the development of the Association trading activities—a very fine co-operative enterprise. The turnover had risen from £300 to over £50,000 per annum. They bought in bulk for their members at better prices than they could individually obtain. A city freehold had been acquired.

Mr. Pfeiffer said he presented the Onkaparinga Potato Growers' Association: this was established five years ago; they owed a debt of gratitude to Mr. Bishop, who had suggested its formation and who had witnessed its remarkable progress. They had been a branch of the Fruitgrowers and Market Gardeners' Association from the outset and had benefited materially as a result, and, with a membership of 108, had become one of the strongest Potato growers' organisations in the State. Although, during the war, a certain amount of control was necessary, it was their duty as growers to guard against the exploitation to which they had been subjected after the first World War.

### Mr. Kentish Sums Up.

The chairman (Mr. Kentish) said their Association had been established on a co-operative basis, and it was scarcely possible to estimate all the good it had achieved. The post-war marketing of Australia's huge Potato crop was one of the problems the growers' organisations would have to tackle. Many feared the bugbear of over-production, and thought they would have to scale down their acreage. He did not take that view. In the 1940-41 season, when they had a phenomenal crop, the Australian output was only 20 per cent. above the normal consumption. By organised marketing both gluts and shortages could be avoided, and the price maintained at a level remunerative to the grower as well as fair to the consuming public.

But to do that, concluded the speaker, they must operate as a united body. Potato growing in Australia was a widely scattered industry, and at times it was difficult for those engaged in it to see eye to eye. However, they lived in hope. Real co-operation between growers was necessary if they were to make a success of post-war planning. The matter of closer union with the Fruitgrowers and Market Gardeners' Association would receive full consideration.

### CITRUS NOTES. BUD SELECTION.

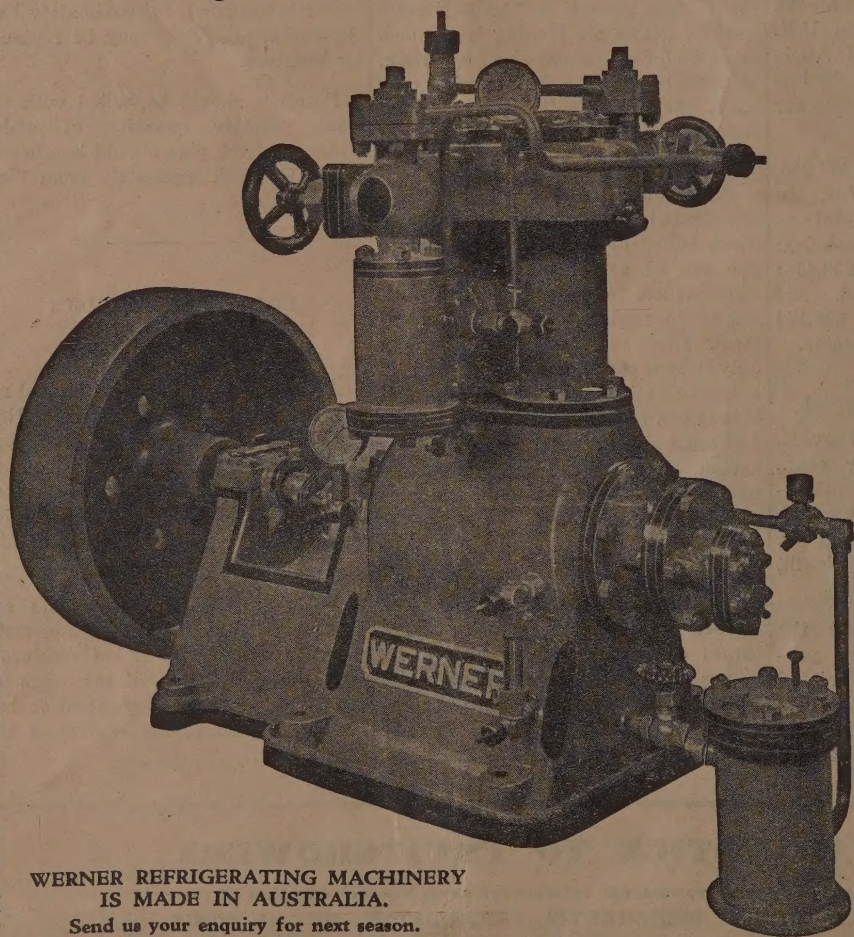
The necessity for care in bud selection when propagating citrus trees is emphasised by Mr. E. C. Levitt, Fruit Instructor, N.S.W. Dept. of Agriculture. He states that only a few years ago it was quite common to see "off-type" Valencia trees, and trees with one or more limbs bearing "off-type" fruit. While bud selection had done much to improve this position, there had been recent instances where an undue percentage of the trees were showing "sport" limbs, indicating a lack of care in selection of parent trees on the part of the nurseryman. The worst cases seen, however, were those propagated by growers.

Mr. Levitt urges the selection of budwood when the fruit is showing.

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